

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 RSC-01 ISO-00

SS-20 NSC-07 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SP-03 L-03 H-03

DRC-01 /135 W

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R 092335Z APR 74

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3440

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: UN SF

SUB: APPOINTMENT OF CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE AT
UNGA SPECIAL SESSION; SOUTH AFRICAN CREDENTIALS

1. SOUTH AFRICAN PERM REP AMB VON HIRSCHBERG TOLD MISOFF
HE HAD DISCUSSED SA CREDENTIALS WITH USYG MORSE
THIS MORNING PRIOR TO CONVENING OF 6TH SPECIAL UNGA. MORSE HAD
NOTED GA PRESIDENT BENITES' INTENTION TO DEAL WITH APPOINT-
MENT OF CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE AT OPEININ OF SPECIAL
SESSION MERELY BY SAYING THAT, IN ORDER TO
EXPEDITE THE SPECIAL SESSION'S WORK, HE WOULD PROPOSE TO
APPOINTMENT THE SAME MEMBER STATES TO THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE
THAT HAD SERVED AT THE 28TH REGULAR SESSION.
MORESE HAD ALSO TOLD VON HIRSCHBERG OF SECRETARIAT'S
BELIEF THAT CONTENTIOUS CREDENTIAL MATTERS WOULD NOT
RPT NOT ARISE DURING THE SPECIAL SESION.

2. VON HIRSCHBERG ASKED WHETHER MISOFF CONSIDERED THERE
MIGHT BE A POSSIBILITY OF PROMPTING BENITES
AT OPENING SITTING TO SAY, IN ADDITION TO FOREGOING,
THAT BARRING SOME NEW PROBLEMS, HE WOULD SEE NO NEED
FOR CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE TO MEET DURING THE SPECIAL
SESSION. MISOFF CAUTIONED BENITES WOULD LIKELY BE
UNWILLING TO MAKE A REMARK TO THIS EFFECT BECAUSE OF
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THE RISK THAT DOING SO WOULD WITHOUT PURPOSE, STIMULATE OBJECTION FROM

TRADITIONAL OPPONENTS OF SAG AND CERTAIN OTHERS.
MISOFF SUGGESTED BETTER COURSE WOULD BE TO ENVISAGE
SECENARIO IN WHICH CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE SIMPLY DOES NOT MEET
OR, ALTERNATIVELY, MEETS AT VERY END OF
SPECIAL SESSION IN PERFUNCTORY AND BRIEF
SITTING WITH CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE MEMBERS, AND SUBSEQUENTLY GA
DELS, MERELY RECITING THEIR RESERVATIONS FOR THE
RECORD. VON HIRSCHBERG AGREED BUT SAID SOUTH AFRICAN
MISSION WOULD DO WELL TO DO CONTINGENCY PLANNING IN
CASE A VOTING SITUATION WERE TO ARISE IN CREDENTIALS
COMMITTEE OR PELNARY.

3. IN FACT, AT OPENING OF SPECIAL SESSION PM 9 APRIL,
BENITES SOUGHT AND, ON NO-OBJECTION BASIS OBTAINED,
GA'S AGREEMENT TO RECONSTITUTION OF CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE
AS PER 28TH REGULAR SESSION VIZ, US, URUGUARY (FORMER
CHAIRMAN), NICARAGUA, GRECE, JAPAN, PRC, USSR, TANZANIZ
AND SENEGAL. (COMMENT THIS SHOULD SET STAGE FOR
RE-ELECTION URUGUAY AS CHAIRMAN IF A CHAIRMAN PROVES
NECESSARY).)
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMITTEES, MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974USUNN01199
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740081-0930
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740453/aaaabwsn.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 JUL 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <06-Aug-2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: APPOINTMENT OF CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE AT UNGA SPECIAL SESSION; SOUTH AFRICAN CREDENTIALS
TAGS: PFOR, SF, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005